



NVCA October 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: November 24, 2023, held virtually

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

Presentation on NVCA's Education Program

Naomi Saunders, NVCA's Manager of Environmental Education, gave a presentation regarding NVCA's education programs to the Board of Directors.

Program Objectives

- Connection to Nature – Facilitate the connection between people and the natural world, foster a lifelong appreciation for the environment and a desire to protect it. Increase opportunities for young people to explore, discover and play in nature.
- Education for Sustainability – Contribute to our communities/municipality's sustainability goals by including programs about waste reduction, energy conservation, and the responsible use of natural resources,
- Environmental Awareness – Raise awareness about environmental conservation, the value of biodiversity, and the impacts of human activities on the natural world.
- Physical and mental health – Provide opportunities for physical activity and stress and anxiety reduction. Increasingly, science and evidence show that the best way to improve one's mental health is to spend time nature.
- Local Ecosystem Understanding – Encourage participants to gain a deeper understanding of the unique ecosystems and biodiversity found within the municipality, promoting local conservation efforts.

Program Delivery

NVCA has partnered with the Simcoe County District School Board to deliver education programs that engage students of all ages in nature based, quality, hands-on, curriculum linked programs. Over 130,000 students have attended NVCA's education programming in the past 10 years.

Camp Tiffin and the Tiffin Nature Program provides safe, fun and inclusive environments where children and counsellors learn, experience and bond with nature while building confidence, friendships and memories for life.

Other programs offered include specialized programs for homeschool families, birthday parties and corporate engagements.

Education staff also attend public events such as programming for guides and scouts, See the Salmon Run and March Break at Park Place.

Financial Impact

The cost to operate NVCA's Environmental Education Program is \$0.08 per watershed resident per year. All other program costs are generated through user fees, partnerships and grants.

Due to the new budgetary framework for conservation authorities, NVCA's Environmental Education Program can only be funded by municipal levy through MOUs.

Update of MOU/Inventory of Programs and Services for MNRF

As of October 27, 2023, six out of 18 MOUs have been formally approved by municipal councils, and two have been approved by the committee of the whole.

These municipalities are:

- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
approved by council
- Township of Amaranth
approved by council
- Town of the Blue Mountains
approved by committee of the whole
- Town of Collingwood
approved by committee of the whole
- Municipality of the Grey Highlands
approved by council
- Township of Melancthon
approved by council
- Town of Mono
approved by council
- Town of Shelburne
approved by council

MOUs for the remaining municipalities are still in negotiations and development. To date, three Municipalities have indicated that they will be selective in Category 3 support for programs.

NVCA has asking the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry for an extension to the December 31, 2023 deadline to have all MOUs signed.

Mayer's Marsh Agricultural Lease Renewal

NVCA has renewed a short-term agricultural lease with Bernie Mayer for the Mayer's Marsh property.

Mayer's Marsh is part of NVCA's Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area landholdings.

Upper Mad River Flood Study

NVCA has partnered with the Township of Clearview and the Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program to produce floodplain mapping for the Village of Creemore.

This study is broken down to two main components – hydrology modelling and hydraulics/flood plain mapping. Hydrology modelling was completed by the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program.

Aquafor Beech Ltd. was selected through an RFP process to complete the hydraulics/flood plain mapping component.

Public consultation on proposed changes to planning and permitting review fees

NVCA is proposing to update planning and permit review fees in order to fulfill the staffing resources required to meet expected service levels, and to fully recover the costs of plan review and permitting services.

The proposed changes include input from key partners and stakeholders, such as municipalities, development sector, the agricultural community, and the aggregate industry

In accordance to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the public must be notified if a conservation authority wishes changes their fee schedule.

Public consultation

Members of the public are invited to review the proposed fees listed below. Questions or concerns should be directed to planning@nvca.on.ca prior to Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

The proposed fees can be [viewed on NVCA's website](#).

Third Quarter Financials

In the first nine months of operations of NVCA, expenditures to date are tracking on schedule, with 83.17% of the budgeted expenses (75% of budget year completed). As this includes the CEWS repayment amount of \$740,879, expenditures are trending normally

Revenues are tracking well, with 80.24% of the budgeted revenues recognized. This includes the first 6 months of the general municipal levy of \$2,054,821.

Currently, the NVCA is sitting in a deficit position, due to the CEWS prepayment, however if that is removed, there is a slight surplus.

Upcoming Events

Tiffin Nature Program

Geared towards children in pre-K and kindergarten, NVCA's nature program will help children gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet. Children learn about risky play, and develop a better understanding of their relationship with the land.

Date:

Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year (with some exceptions)

Location:

Tiffin Centre for Conservation
8195 8th Line Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

[Link to Registration](#)